16. Carpet Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.

M!|BL Paramount engineering works Lucknow

1549. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased t$_0$ state:

('a) whether th$_e$ Government of India have inquired int$_0$ the working of M|s. Paramount Engineering Works, Lucknow during the last fiv$_e$ Years;

(b) whether it is a fact that this com" pany cornered crores of rupees by selling the costly imported material in the black market and then evaded the actual verification with the connivance of Estate Industries Department and the Chief Controller Imports & Exports on the plea that the records hav$_e$ been destroyed or lost;

(c) what is th$_e$ value of licences that were issued t$_0$ this firm during the last five years, year-wise;

(d) on what basis these licences were issued; and

(e) whether th$_e$ above firm also evaded Sales tax and Income tax amounting *to* crores of rupees and if so, what action Government have take$_n$ in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (d) The unit had obtained import licences and release order$_s$ during th$_e$ period AM-65-66 to AM-71-72 amounting to Rs. 83.28, 040|-.

On the allegation that they were non-existent and bogus unit and had obtained the licences and release orders of values Higher their entitlements and had misuti-lised the imported materials, investigations were carried out and $_a$ctio$_n$ was taken under Clause 8 of the Imports (Control) Order, 1955. The firm wer$_e$ debarred from receiving import licences and 'allotment of goods through canalising agencies for 10 licensing periods from AM 74 to AM-83.

The case was also banded over to CBi for investigations. On the basis of CBI's findings that th$_e$ firm and their partners had entered into criminal conspiracy in obtaining the licence$_s$ and delivery of materials from MMTC. A criminal complaint was filed in the Court of "Additional Chief ludicial Megistrate| Special Magistral (SPE cases) Lucknow. The . final outcome of the case is not known.

(e) Information about the evasion of sales tax and income tax is not available with this ministry.

Itcnami Accounts i$_n$ Bank$_s$

1550. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will th$_e$ Minister of FINANCE b$_e$ pleas$_e$d to state:

(a) whethe$_r$ it i$_s$ a fact that a large number of persons opened their accounts in banks ni Benami and wrong addresses in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) wheher it is also a fact that most of the accounts were opened with black money;

(c) whether any letter has been re ceived by the Finance Minister in this regard in August, 1985;

(d) whether Government propse *to* take any steps to ensure that as soon as the account with more than Rs. 50,000 is- opened. Income Tax authori ties are informed by the concerned banks which will help th$_e$ authorities to curb bl'ack money; and

(e) if not, what alternative action Government propose to take in this re gard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JA-NARDHAN POOJARl): (a) and (b) A$_s$ per information readily available, 20 bank accounts opened i$_n$ Hyderabad in the name$_s$ of the person$_s$ $_w$h$_0$ appear to be fictitious have come to the notice of the Income Tax Department. Appropriate action under Direct Taxes Acts is underway. It would not be feasible at this stage to say whether the source of these deposits was legal or not.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Government and the Reserve Bank of India have taken several steps to ensure that bank eontituents open accounts in their own names, Banks have been asked to satisfy themselves about the genuineness of the account holders. Banks' inspecting officers are also required t_0 report to higher authorities any cases of suspected incometax evasion that they may come across during their inspection of branches. Banks are required to repay deposits of Rs. 10,000- or more only through 'account payee' cheques. Besides, banks are statutorily required to furnish to Income Tax authorities every year the names and addresses of all persons who, during the previous year had been P[a]'d aggregate interest of Rs. 1000-or more.

Promotions *to* SC Employees in PF office, Delhi

1551. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sometime in the last week of December, 1985 a memorandum was submitted to Govern ment by the All India Employees' provident Fund Scheduled Caste | Scheduled Tribe Staff Federation regarding denial of promotions to the Scheduled Caste employees in the regional Provident Fund Office in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what is the nature of the grievances of the Scheduled Caste em ployees and what steps have been taken by Government to redress their grievan ces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheduled Caste employees in the office of Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Delhi have alleged denial of promotions to them as Upper Division Clerks I Head Clearks as per the roster of promotion prescribed by the Government of India. According to the report furnished by the Employees' Provident Fund authorities, all the eligible Scheduled Caste employees have beeni promoted strictly according to the reservation orders issued by the Government of India.

Demand for castor oil in World Market

1552. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL:
SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state-.

(a) whether the demand for castor oil is likely to shoot up in the world market in the coming years;

(b) whether the demand requires monitoring; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to derive maximum benefits out of it?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) The world demand of caster oil bas remained static, with the world trade varying between 1.5 to 1.8 lakh tonnes. The castor oil and $casto_r$ oil based products can be substituted by alternative materials of equal technical performance and as such the consumption of castor oil is dependant upon the availability and prices of alternative materials. The international price of $casto_r$ oil has also shown wide fluctuations due to erratic supply and production position of this commodity. The world demand in coming years would depend upon price of castor oil and its substitutes.

(b) The potential for export of castor oil from India, aggressive competition by our competitors and the resultant fluctua tions in international price in recent years had necessitated closer monitoring of our exports and the international market for this commodity.

(c) A Working Group on Castor Oil had been set up in this Ministry to formulate a *°ng term strategy for export of castor oil from India. The Working